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78-6776/4

28 December 1978

ENC #75-3505/B

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for
USSR-Eastern Europe

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Worldwide Congressional Briefing ☐

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1. In reviewing an outline entitled "Prospects for the USSR" for the worldwide Congressional briefings next month, I find the sentence in paragraph I.C. "Predisposition of the Soviet leadership to seize fresh external opportunities strong, undiminished by uneven successes." ☐

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2. Can we state that there is a stronger predisposition to seize such opportunities today than a year or two ago? Is this a characteristic of the present Soviet leadership emboldened by their successes in Africa, their achievement of strategic parity, etc.? Would such a characterization be carrying things too far? ☐

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3. Further, in paragraph IV.D., this outline indicates that "the Soviets want to preserve sufficiently good relations with the West and the U.S. to maintain momentum of arms control negotiations as well as the transfer of Western technology...." What do you view the real impetus behind their desire to keep arms control negotiations going to be? Is it economic? Is it that they feel they must have detente with the West if they're going to have tension with China? (Isn't it early to be worried about China?) Is it the need to acquire Western technology? Is it a plan to use detente to lull the NATO allies into a position of complacency? ☐

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STANSFIELD TURNER ☐

cc: C/CSS/NFAC

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

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13	D/PA				
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Remarks:

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Executive Secretary

28 December 1978

Date

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